President's reply.—I associate myself with your remarks on the sad demise of Mr. Kumaran Asan. The report of the Enquiry Committee is awaited and the necessary action will be taken on receipt thereof.

Re : reduction of staff in the P. W. D. your suggestions are noted.

Regarding the Tiruvalla-Changanachery canal, I know that only one portion has to be done and that land has to be acquired for the purpose. The delay in this matter will be enquired into and the work expedited.

Re : the Pallipalam bridge, the work will be started in 1100. The acquisition of lands for the purpose to the extent of Rs. 6,000 will be completed this year.

As regards the bridges on the Tiruvalla-Mavelikara road, four crossings are provided with junghars and one bridge has been recently constructed, *viz.*, the one at the Alanturutti crossing.

As regards the provision of bridges at Manippuzha and Peringara your suggestion will be considered.

Regarding a bridge at Palattankuzhi, the necessary investigation is proceeding and provision will be made for the work in the next year's budget.

You suggest connecting the Manimala river with Manippuzha, and request that the necessary survey be conducted in consultation with the persons interested, in which case you point out that the lands required are likely to be given free of compensation. Your suggestion is noted. A survey will be ordered as requested.

64. Means of communication in Shertallai taluk.

Mr. Vinamsi Thomas (Member, Shertallai taluk) said that, when the other taluks were praying for luxuries, the representatives of Shertallai were only praying for the necessaries of life. Shertallai occupied the fourth place among the taluks of the State in point of population and it brought into the coffers of the State two lakhs of rupees by way of land revenue and eight lakhs as customs duty. The officers who visited the taluk did not go far away from the town and so they were ignorant of the pitiable condition of the inhabitants in the interior. There were very few means of communication. The place was notorious for infant mortality and illiteracy, and the people were steadily going down in economic welfare and political importance. The reason for all those evils might be traced to the want of proper means of communication.

The Member urged that, at the recent reorganisation of taluks, South Aryad, North Aryad, Mararikulam and other *pakuthies* were added to the Ambalapuzha taluk and a long portion of the Alleppey-Shertallai canal which was now under construction passed through those regions. It could not be argued that that portion of the canal was for the benefit of the people of Shertallai. The remaining portion of the canal was being opened mainly through uninhabited areas and hence it would not be useful to the majority of the people of Shertallai. If it should be made useful, branch canals had to be opened from the main canal towards the eastern and western extremities of the taluk. For the present the people would be satisfied with two such canals—one from Shertallai town to the sea-shore *via* Arattinkal, and the other from Mukamma to the sea-shore *via* the Mararikkulam temple. As no compensation had to be paid for the lands required for those branch canals and as the distance of the canals was not much, Government could carry out the works at a small cost.

The Member next urged that very few roads were metalled in Shertallai. He requested that the Shertallai-Alleppey road might be metalled as far as the northern boundary and made cartable. Of the village roads, the most important were the Tannirmukkam road, the Shertallai-Arattinkal road and the Mukamma-Mararikulam road. A portion of the Tannirmukkam road had been metalled, and he requested that the remaining portion might also be metalled. The construction of bridges on that road might be done in due course. The road from Shertallai to Arattinkal had been surveyed recently, but it was surveyed through Arattinkal. That

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

was a grave defect and the Member pointed out the importance of constructing the road through Arattinkal. He prayed that a fresh survey might be made and the line traced through Arattinkal. He also requested that the Mukamma-Mararikulam road be metalled.

President's reply.—The opening of cross canals is receiving attention. Madayan *thodu* and Puttan *thodu* have been already taken up. The other canals will be taken up later.

The making of roads is costly in Shertallai. A road is being constructed along the west bank of the Alleppey-Shertallai canal now under construction.

The road from Shertallai to Arattinkal has been aligned to pass along the existing village road and passes by the Arattinkal church. The work on the Tannirmukkam road will be expedited.

65. Some urgent needs of Shertallai north.

Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karta (Member, Shertallai taluk) represented that two foot-bridges over the canal that runs north from Kuttiatodu to Veluttulli backwater, one to the west of Chemmanad temple and the other just to the east of the Sri Narayanapuram temple, were necessary and requested that those works might be soon taken up. He also prayed for two ferries—one between Kodanturuttu and Panappalli and the other between Trichattukulam and Eramallur. The last request of the Member was that the Puchakkal canal which had silted up might be deepened.

President's reply.—The two foot-bridges required on the Veluttulli-Kuttiatodu canal will be arranged to be put up. The two ferry services required on the Arukutty-Shertallai backwater at Kodanturuttu and Eramallur will also be ordered. The necessary repairs to the Puchakkal canal have been already ordered by the Chief Engineer.

65. Means of communication in Shertallai.

Mr. N. R. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) represented that the means of communication in the Shertallai taluk might be improved. He suggested the opening of Panappalli *thodu* to the Vayalarkayal *via* Lakshmipuram market. That would be midway between Shertallai town and Kuttiatodu—another opening to Vayalarkayal about 10 miles from Shertallai town. The opening would be through one of the most thickly populated parts of the taluk and through a thriving market. The Member said that, being just to the east of Antakarazhi, the canal suggested by him would be of great help to the discharge of the accumulated water in the backwater as a result of the opening of the Cochin harbour.

The Member also prayed for the gravelling of the road from Shertallai to Arur.

President's reply.—Your suggestions *re.* the extension of the Panappalli canal *via* Lakshmipuram market to Vayalar backwater are noted. The Chief Engineer will be asked to make an inspection of the locality and submit definite proposals as to the location of the cross canal in question.

In regard to the gravelling of the road from Shertallai to Arur, the first section will be taken up next year.

II. MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.—(*Concluded.*)

2. Forest.

67. Hardship caused to the agriculturists by the Forest Department.

Mr. U. M. S. Mohideen Pillai Rowther (Member, Devicolam taluk) said that he had in his first representation already stated the several requirements of the cardamom ryots, and that it was his intention, by means of the present representation, to bring home to the authorities the several hardships caused to them by the Forest Department. The cardamom cultivators being essentially agriculturists could naturally be expected to conform only to the control of the Revenue Department, but unfortunately for them, they were subjected to the control of the Forest Department also, on the officers of which the duty of the protection of the tree-growth on the cardamom areas devolved. He complained that it was the dual control exercised over them by

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly